

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

April 3, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Marijuana will be legal in Canada (0:13)

Setting the Scene



CBC News has learned that the federal government will announce the week of April 10 that new legislation will make the sale of marijuana legal by July 1, 2018. (Mark Blinch/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Currently marijuana is illegal in Canada. The Liberal government has said that this system of prohibiting the use of marijuana does stop people from using marijuana. Instead, many young people have criminal records after being caught with small amounts of marijuana. The police and the criminal justice system are using valuable resources to catch people with small amounts of marijuana, when they could use those resources to pursue more dangerous criminals. The Liberal government has also explained that if the government legalizes marijuana, they would have better control over who is able to use it and they would keep the profits out of the hands of criminals. When the Liberals won the federal election in 2015, they said they would legalize marijuana.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about marijuana? Is it commonly used in your country?

What is your country's law about marijuana?

Do you know of any medical benefits of using marijuana?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

legalize (v.)	to make something legal, so people are allowed to do it
restriction (n.)	a rule against something or controlling something
option (n.)	a choice or possibility
cannabis (n.)	marijuana, pot
distribute (v.)	to supply to shops and companies
pushing for (phr. v.)	supporting, working to achieve
facility (n.)	a place where a service is provided for a purpose
firm (adj.)	strong and unchanging

1. The federal government of Canada decides what substances to _____.
2. People around the country have been _____ the legalization of marijuana for many years.
3. The Conservative government was _____ on the decision to keep marijuana illegal.
4. The Liberal government has a different view of _____.
5. The Liberal government sees the _____ of marijuana as a waste of resources.
6. When the _____ of marijuana is done by criminals, the quality and safety of the product cannot be controlled.
7. If the government is able to set laws for _____ to grow and distribute marijuana, it can have more control over quality and safety.
8. Some people say that marijuana is a healthier and safer _____ than alcohol.

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

dispensary – a place where medicines are given out; a place where medical marijuana is given out to patients

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3b3sqo

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Marijuana will be legal in Canada _____.
a. this summer b. next summer c. in the summer
2. The Alberta government is preparing its own laws on _____ restrictions.
a. prices and location b. age and cost c. prizes and age
3. Ottawa will legalize the use of marijuana on _____.
a. on July 1, 2018 b. on July 4, 2018 c. by July 1, 2017
4. Ottawa will set the age restriction at 18 years old, but provinces can _____ the age.
a. decrease b. move c. increase
5. The _____ can decide how cannabis is sold and distributed.
a. cities b. countries c. provinces
6. Aaron Bott has been _____ cannabis legalization for 15 years.
a. suggesting b. pushing for c. pushing against
7. The dispensary he worked in was _____ by police in 2015.
a. shut down b. opened up c. shut off
8. Aurora Cannabis is building the world's largest marijuana _____ near Edmonton.
a. distribution facility b. growing facility c. using faculty
9. Cam Battley says a _____ legalization date is good for the industry.
a. suggested b. firm c. firm

Food for Thought

Why do some people support the legalization of marijuana?

Why do some people oppose the legalization of marijuana?

News story #2 Oilers headed to the playoffs (1:34)

Setting the Scene



The Edmonton Oilers clinched a playoff spot Tuesday night, their first one in 11 years. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jason Franson) (CBC file photo)

There are 30 teams in the National Hockey League (NHL), 23 in the U.S. and 7 in Canada. The top 16 teams (top 8 in the eastern conference and top 8 in the western conference) of the regular season go on to the Stanley Cup playoffs or post season. The playoffs are a long tournament in which teams try to beat each other and move on. The most successful team wins the Stanley Cup. When the Oilers went to the playoffs in 2006, they made it all the way to the final game, but they lost to the Carolina Hurricanes. Edmonton Oilers fans have been waiting a long time for the Oilers to make it to the playoffs again.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you watch hockey?

Have you heard of the NHL playoffs?

What is Calgary's NHL team?

What sports do you enjoy watching?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The Oilers are now playing hockey in the new **arena** downtown.
 - a. a building with a huge open area but no seats
 - b. a building with a large flat centre and seats around the sides
2. The hockey games was tied, but in the last few seconds of the game the Oilers scored and **clinched** the win,
 - a. to finally get something after trying hard
 - b. to easily get something without much effort
3. The regular season of hockey ends soon, and the **post-season** starts in early April.
 - a. playoffs
 - b. after winter
4. When a hockey team makes it into the playoffs, there are **celebrations** around the city.
 - a. holidays to show respect
 - b. parties to express happiness
5. If people **riot** in the streets, the police could arrest them for disorderly behaviour.
 - a. a crowd of people gathering to show support
 - b. an uncontrolled group of people acting violently
6. Police and businesses work together to make sure events are **riot-free**.
 - a. without group violence
 - b. no cost to attend the gathering
7. The **preparations** for the party only took a few hours. I just had to decorate and cook food.
 - a. plans to make something happen successfully
 - b. tasks to accomplish around the house
8. The businesses downtown have their own **association** to encourage people to shop and eat in their area.
 - a. a website to advertise to people
 - b. a group working toward a similar goal

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. While you listen, try to answer the questions. You may need to listen more than once.

Answers are in the appendix

1. How did the Oilers clinch a spot in the post-season of the NHL?
2. What team did the Oilers defeat on Tuesday night?
3. What have people in Edmonton started preparing for?
4. When was the last time the Oilers were in the playoffs?
5. What happened on Whyte Avenue at that time?
6. What did Murray Davison say about that situation?
7. Why will celebrations happen over a wider area this time?
8. In what two areas of the city are people expected to celebrate?
9. What are some downtown restaurant owners and bar owners hoping for?

Food for thought

What sport are people in your hometown crazy about?

What atmosphere do you expect to see in Alberta when the playoffs start?

News story #3 Stolen gold coin worth millions (2:38)

Setting the Scene



The 100kg gold coin dubbed 'Big Maple Leaf,' seen in 2010, was stolen from Germany's Bode Museum overnight in Berlin. (Marcel Mettelsiefen/dpa/Associated Press) (CBC file photo)

In 2007 The Royal Canadian Mint made 6 gold coins, called the “Big Maple Leaf”. A mint is a place where coins are made. The “Big Maple Leaves” are pure gold coins valued at 1 million Canadian dollars each. The Royal Canadian Mint kept the original coin and sold the other five. The Bode Museum in Germany bought one of the coins to add to its huge coin collection.

Pre-listening Questions

What currency (money) does your country use?

How does that currency compare to Canada’s currency?

What do you think of the colourful bills and coins used in Canada?

What are the pictures on the Canadian bills and coins?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.

Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	thieves	a) width of a circle
_____	massive	b) to enter a place using force, without permission
_____	worth	c) huge, very large
_____	diameter	d) a car used to escape
_____	portrait	e) a building with important cultural or historical objects
_____	break into	f) burglars, people stealing
_____	alongside	g) to take something somewhere in a cart
_____	wheelbarrow	h) beside
_____	carted	i) the value or cost of something
_____	getaway car	j) a picture of a person's head and shoulders
_____	museum	k) a small cart with one wheel used for moving heavy things

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Thieves say police broke into the Bode Museum in Berlin.
2. ____ Berlin is the capital city of Germany.
3. ____ The thieves stole a 100-kilogram gold coin.
4. ____ The coin was 53 centimetres thick.
5. ____ The coin had a diameter of 3 centimetres.
6. ____ The coin has a portrait of the Queen on one side.
7. ____ On the other side of the coin are oak leaves.
8. ____ The coin is valued at 1 million Euro.
9. ____ The coin is worth more than 5 million dollars by the weight of the metal.
10. ____ Two burglars broke into the museum early Tuesday morning.
11. ____ The thieves used a ladder to climb down to the basement window.
12. ____ There are railroad tracks running under the building.
13. ____ The thieves used a wheelbarrow to move the "Big Maple Leaf."
14. ____ The thieves used a getaway train to leave the building.

Food for thought

What do you think the thieves will do with the massive coin?

What kind of security do museums usually have?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Don Bell and this is Learning English with the CBC April 3 rd with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Marijuana will be legal in Canada next summer. The Alberta government is preparing its own laws on pricing and age restrictions. On July 1, 2018, Ottawa will legalize the use of marijuana for people 18 and older, but the provinces will have the option of raising the age limit if they choose to. Provinces will also be able to decide how cannabis is sold and distributed. The marijuana industry is getting ready. Aaron Bott has been pushing for cannabis legalization for 15 years. He worked in an Edmonton dispensary before it was shut down by police in 2015. He says he'll think about opening up a shop again once legalization happens. Meanwhile, Aurora Cannabis is building the world's largest pot growing facility near the Edmonton International Airport. The company's executive vice president Cam Battley says a firm legalization date is good news for the industry.	0:13
Story 2	After the Edmonton Oilers clinched a spot in the post-season with a win Tuesday night over the Los Angeles Kings, preparations have started for a safe and riot-free playoff run. The last time the Oilers were in the playoffs in 2006, there were riots on Whyte Avenue. Murray Davison, executive director of the Old Strathcona Business Association, says lessons were learned from the 2006 riots. He adds that with the new arena in the downtown, the celebrations should happen over a wider area in both downtown and Whyte Avenue. Ian O'Donnell, executive director of the downtown business association, says that is certainly what some downtown restaurant and bar owners are hoping for.	1:34
Story 3	Berlin police say thieves broke into the German capital's Bode Museum and stole a massive 100-kilogram gold coin from the Royal Canadian Mint that is worth millions of dollars. Known as the "Big Maple Leaf" and measuring three-centimetres thick with a diameter of 53 centimetres, the coin has a portrait of the Queen on one side and maple leaves on the other. It has a value of 1 million dollars, but by weight alone the metal in the coin could be worth more than 5 million. Police said Tuesday at least two burglars broke into the museum early Monday morning using a ladder to climb up to a window from railway tracks running alongside the building. The thieves grabbed the "Big Maple Leaf", put it onto a wheelbarrow, then carted it out of the building and left in a getaway car.	2:38

Answer keys

News story 1 Marijuana will be legal in Canada (0:13)

Vocabulary

1. The federal government of Canada decides what substances to legalize.
2. People around the country have been pushing for the legalization of marijuana for many years.
3. The Conservative government was firm on the decision to keep marijuana illegal.
4. The Liberal government has a different view of cannabis.
5. The Liberal government sees the restriction of marijuana as a waste of resources.
6. When the distribution of marijuana is done by criminals, the quality and safety of the product cannot be controlled.
7. If the government is able to set laws for facilities to grow and distribute marijuana, it can have more control over quality and safety.
8. Some people say that marijuana is a healthier and safer option than alcohol.

Listening

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News story 2 Oilers headed to the playoffs (1:34)

Vocabulary

1. The Oilers are now playing hockey in the new arena downtown.
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 - b. a building with a large flat centre and seats around the sides
2. The hockey game was tied, but in the last few seconds of the game the Oilers scored and clinched the win,
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 - b. a group working toward a similar goal

Listening

1. How did the Oilers clinch a spot in the post-season of the NHL?
They won the game on Tuesday night.
2. What team did the Oilers defeat on Tuesday night?
Los Angeles Kings
3. What have people in Edmonton started preparing for?
A safe and riot-free playoff run
4. When was the last time the Oilers were in the playoffs?
2006
5. What happened on Whyte Avenue at that time?
There were riots
6. What did Murray Davison say about that situation?
Lessons were learned from that experience
7. Why will celebrations happen over a wider area this time?
The new arena is downtown

8. In what two areas of the city are people expected to celebrate?
Downtown and Whyte Avenue (Old Strathcona)
9. What are some downtown restaurant owners and bar owners hoping for?
That celebrations will happen downtown

News story 3 Stolen gold coin worth millions (2:38)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>f</u>	thieves	a) width of a circle
<u>c</u>	massive	b) to enter a place using force, without permission
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<u>a</u>	diameter	d) a car used to escape
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<u>b</u>	break into	f) burglars, people stealing
<u>h</u>	alongside	g) to take something somewhere in a cart
<u>k</u>	wheelbarrow	h) beside
<u>g</u>	carted	i) the value or cost of something
<u>d</u>	getaway car	j) a picture of a person's head and shoulders
<u>e</u>	museum	k) a small cart with one wheel used for moving heavy things

Listening

1. F Thieves say police broke into the Bode Museum in Berlin.
2. T Berlin is the capital city of Germany.
3. T The thieves stole a 100-kilogram gold coin.
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8. F The coin is valued at 1 million Euro.
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12. F There are railroad tracks running under the building.
13. T The thieves used a wheelbarrow to move the "Big Maple Leaf."
14. F The thieves used a getaway train to leave the building.